

2. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein [the relationship between material of tabs and total cross-sectional area of the tabs is not less than 0.009 cm^2 for aluminum, not less than 0.005 cm^2 for copper, and not less than 0.004 cm^2 for nickel, and preferably not less than 0.014 cm^2 for aluminum, not less than 0.008 cm^2 for copper, and not less than 0.008 cm^2 for nickel] said tabs are selected from among aluminum tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not less than 0.009 cm^2 , copper tabs having a cross-sectional area of not less than 0.005 cm^2 and nickel tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not less than 0.004 cm^2 .

3. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of a tab is not more than twice a thickness of an electrode active material layer in an electrode to which the tabs are welded[, and preferably not more than a thickness of the electrode active material layer].

4. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein a thickness of a tab is not more than twice a thickness of an electrode active material layer in an electrode to which the tabs are welded[, and preferably not more than a thickness of the electrode active material layer].

Claim 7, line 7, delete "to be".

8. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 7, wherein [the relationship between material of the tabs and total cross-sectional area of the tabs when internal resistance of a unit battery is set $R \text{ (m}\Omega\text{)}$ is not more than $0.36/R \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$ for aluminum, not more than $0.18/R \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$ for copper, and not more than $0.14/R \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$ for nickel, and preferably not more than $0.18/R \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$ for aluminum, not more than $0.09/R \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$ for copper, and not more than $0.07/R \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$ for nickel] said tabs are selected from among aluminum tabs having a total cross-sectional

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area of not more than $0.36/R$ (cm^2), R being internal resistance, in $\text{m}\Omega$, of a unit battery, copper tabs having a cross-sectional area of not more than $0.18/R$ cm^2 , and nickel tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not more than $0.14/R$ cm^2 .

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12. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein [when internal resistance of a unit battery is set R ($\text{m}\Omega$), the relationship between material of the tabs and total cross-sectional area of the tabs is not less than 0.008 cm^2 and not more than $0.36/R$ cm^2 for aluminum, not less than 0.005 cm^2 and not more than $0.18/R$ cm^2 for copper, and not less than 0.004 cm^2 and not more than $0.14/R$ cm^2 for nickel, and preferably not less than 0.014 cm^2 and not more than $0.18/R$ cm^2 for aluminum, not less than 0.008 cm^2 and not more than $0.09/R$ cm^2 for copper, and not less than 0.008 cm^2 and not more than $0.07/R$ cm^2 for nickel] said tabs are selected from among aluminum tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not less than 0.008 cm^2 and not more than $0.36/R$ (cm^2), R being internal resistance, in $\text{m}\Omega$, of a unit battery, copper tabs having a cross-sectional area of not less than 0.005 cm^2 and not more than $0.18/R$ cm^2 , and nickel tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not less than 0.004 cm^2 and not more than $0.14/R$ cm^2 .

13. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 7, wherein [when internal resistance of a unit battery is set R ($\text{m}\Omega$), the relationship between material of the tabs and total cross-sectional area of the tabs is not less than 0.008 cm^2 and not more than $0.36/R$ cm^2 for aluminum, not less than 0.005 cm^2 and not more than $0.18/R$ cm^2 for copper, and not less than 0.004 cm^2 and not more than $0.14/R$ cm^2 for nickel, and preferably not less than 0.014 cm^2 and not more than $0.18/R$ cm^2 for aluminum, not less than 0.008 cm^2 and not more than $0.09/R$ cm^2 for copper, and not less than 0.008 cm^2 and not more than $0.07/R$ cm^2 for nickel] said tabs are selected from among aluminum tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not less than 0.008 cm^2

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and not more than $0.36/R$ (cm^2), R being internal resistance, in $\text{m}\Omega$, of a unit battery, copper tabs having a cross-sectional area of not less than 0.005 cm^2 and not more than $0.18/R \text{ cm}^2$, and nickel tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not less than 0.004 cm^2 and not more than $0.14/R \text{ cm}^2$.

16. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein [an end part of the tab at the side with no connection taking place with the electrodes is connected by pressure attachment, welding or eyelet] said battery further comprises a positive terminal and a negative terminal, and each said tab is:

connected at a first end to the positive electrode or the negative electrode, and at a second end to said positive terminal or said negative terminal by pressure attachment;

connected at a first end to the positive electrode or the negative electrode, and at a second end to said positive terminal or said negative terminal by welding; or

connected at a first end to the positive electrode or the negative electrode, and comprises at a second end an eyelet which is connected to said positive terminal or said negative terminal.

17. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 7, wherein [an end part of the tab at the side with no connection taking place with the electrodes is connected by pressure attachment, welding or eyelet] said battery further comprises a positive terminal and a negative terminal, and each said tab is:

connected at a first end to the positive electrode or the negative electrode, and at a second end to said positive terminal or said negative terminal by pressure attachment;

connected at a first end to the positive electrode or the negative electrode, and at a second end to said positive terminal or said negative terminal by welding; or

connected at a first end to the positive electrode or the negative electrode, and comprises

at a second end an eyelet which is connected to said positive terminal or said negative terminal.

Please add new claims 22 - 27 as follows:

--22. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein said tabs are selected from among aluminum tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not less than 0.014 cm^2 , copper tabs having a cross-sectional area of not less than 0.008 cm^2 and nickel tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not less than 0.008 cm^2 .

23. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of a tab is not more than a thickness of an electrode active material layer in an electrode to which the tabs are welded.

24. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 2, wherein a thickness of a tab is not more than a thickness of an electrode active material layer in an electrode to which the tabs are welded.

25. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 7, wherein said tabs are selected from among aluminum tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not more than $0.18/R \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$, R being internal resistance, in $\text{m}\Omega$, of a unit battery, copper tabs having a cross-sectional area of not more than $0.09/R \text{ cm}^2$, and nickel tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not more than $0.07/R \text{ cm}^2$.

26. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 1, wherein said tabs are selected from among aluminum tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not less than 0.014 cm^2 and not more than $0.18/R \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$, R being internal resistance, in $\text{m}\Omega$, of a unit battery, copper tabs having a cross-sectional area of not less than 0.008 cm^2 and not more than $0.09/R \text{ cm}^2$, and nickel tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not less than 0.008 cm^2 and not more than $0.07/R \text{ cm}^2$.

27. The lithium secondary battery according to claim 7, wherein said tabs are selected from among aluminum tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not less than 0.014 cm^2 and not more than $0.18/R \text{ (cm}^2\text{)}$, R being internal resistance, in $\text{m}\Omega$ of a unit battery, copper tabs having a cross-sectional area of not less than 0.008 cm^2 and not more than $0.09/R \text{ cm}^2$, and nickel tabs having a total cross-sectional area of not less than 0.008 cm^2 and not more than $0.07/R \text{ cm}^2$.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain herein. New claims 22-27 are added hereby.

Claims 2-4, 8, 12, 13, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In response, the claims have been amended as set forth above to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are requested.

Claims 1-4, 7, 14, 15 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) over U.S. Patent No. 6,099,986 (Gauthier '986), and claims 5, 6, 8-13, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Gauthier '986.

Gauthier '986 discloses a thermal management system for an energy storage device which includes a plurality of energy storage cells coupled in parallel to common positive and negative connections. In one embodiment, a fuse is coupled in series with each of a number of energy